

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 to 8, 10 to 20, 22 to 31 and 33 to 44 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 15, 27 and 38 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for taking the time to conduct a personal interview on Thursday, February 19, 2004 to discuss the finality of the present Office Action.

During the interview, the Examiner indicated he would reconsider the finality of this Office Action. Applicant submits that the previous Office Action stated that Claims 1 to 8, 11 to 20, 23 to 31 and 34 to 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) "as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art in view of Chun et al. (5,521,992) and Fujimura et al. (6,576,888)" (see page 2 of the First Office Action, emphasis added). Applicant properly filed a Reply indicating that the Fujimura reference should be removed as not being Prior Art. The Examiner removed Fujimura, but issued a Final Office Action stating during the interview that the previous rejection was based on Admitted Prior Art in view of Chun et al. or Fujimura et al. Since Applicant relied on the statement in the First Office Action to his own detriment, Applicant requested that the Examiner reconsider his position on the finality of this Office Action in the event the Examiner rejects this Amendment.

Applicant acknowledges that claims 9 to 10, 21 to 22 and 32 to 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims. However, the Applicant further acknowledges the Examiner's indication on page 4 of the office action that the limitations of these claims are the basis for allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant

has included the limitations of claim 9 into claim 1, the limitations of claim 21 into claim 15 and the limitations of claim 32 into claim 27.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should be directed to the address below. Applicant's attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown below.

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Serial No. : 09/918,353
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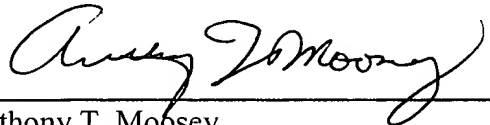
Attorney's Docket No.: 12885-003001 / 200107992

No fee is believed to be due for this Amendment; however, if any fees are due please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket 12885-003001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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